

"Mexico's Dilemma"

FRESH from two years' experience of the German character in Germany, Carl W. Ackerman went to Mexico to investigate the German activities there. In *Mexico's Dilemma* he has recorded the situation as he found it, not only with regard to German intrigue, but also in relation to the possibilities of establishing a stable Government in the near future.

Mr. Ackerman finds that there are three horns to Mexico's dilemma:

"1. Financial ruin of Mexico and internal disorders unless a loan is obtained.

"2. The possibility of a subjugation to German influence, with all of its liability to external strife.

"3. Cooperation with the United States, England, France and South America."

Regarding the financial situation Mr. Ackerman says: "Mexico has reached the crossroads in the path of revolution. To-day most of the fighting is at an end. There are bandits in some sections of the republic, but their raids are becoming fewer every month. Mexico city itself is as busy and active as New York, but there is a financial crisis which, although not evident upon the surface of things, is destined to mark the climax of the revolution."

Although operating on a cash basis, the Carranza Government is spending more than it is making, and the deficit does not include the foreign obligations. American experts who have been consulted believe that the deficit "can be cut down so that it will not be dangerous, and new bonds can be issued to replace bonds held in foreign countries."

The predominant view among the Mexicans is "that the present Government cannot continue without the aid of foreign capital." This would seem to be the belief of President Carranza, who has asked for authority to raise \$150,000,000 in Mexico or outside.

But New York bankers will not lend money to Mexico under present conditions. "The only alternative hope for Mexico is that the United States [Government] will loan money. But what money the United States has to loan can only—by the terms of the recent act—be loaned to the Allies; a special act would hardly be considered." So Mr. Ackerman believes "the easiest way for Mexico would be to break off diplomatic relations with Germany."

Mr. Ackerman has great faith in the present Government of Mexico; he believes that should Carranza fall a reign of terror would ensue and "the only solution would be American intervention" if oils and minerals for which the Allies are dependent upon Mexico are to be safeguarded in mining and transit.

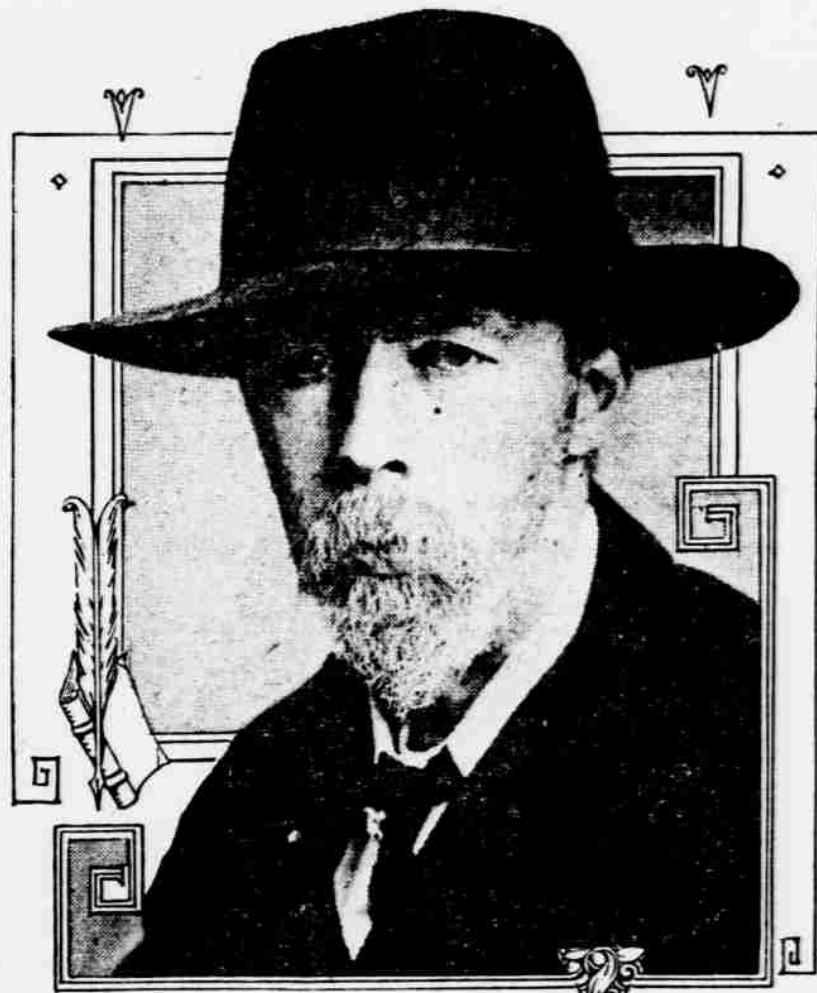
As to the possibility of Mexico succumbing to German influence, Mr. Ackerman finds that in Mexico as elsewhere the Hun has overshot his mark. To-day Germany would be well satisfied to have Mexico remain neutral. Germany is working in her usual underground way, largely through the German paid I. W. W., which is continuously plotting strikes at the mines and the docks. The leaders of this movement, who have nearly all come from the United States since the war, publish one daily and one weekly paper, ostensibly in the interest of labor but actually to promote the German propaganda.

"The allied and American secret service offensive against the lines of communication between enemy spies and their Berlin headquarters has been so successful that one may for the first time speak of the checkmating of the enemy's intelligence service." German press propaganda in Mexico has fallen flat despite the fact that many of the leading Mexican dailies are controlled by Germans. Germany succeeded in getting forty active German officers into the Mexican army, but while Mr. Ackerman was in Mexico they were all discharged.

As to the question of cooperation with the United States and the allies, Mr. Ackerman finds that what friendship there is to-day is largely due to Ambassador Fletcher. He was hissed when Carranza first took office and Von Eckhardt was applauded. "If there were a celebration to-day the honors would be reversed. That much the Ambassador did in four months. He may yet have the Mexicans cheering Uncle Sam's troops in France."

MEXICO'S DILEMMA. By CARL W. ACKERMAN. George H. Doran Company. \$1.50. With 222 illus. 307 p. 5x7 1/2 in.

Arthur Symons Conjures Up a Vanished Paris



ARTHUR SYMONS
Author of "Colour Studies in Paris"

"MY Paris is a land where twilight days

Merge into violet nights of black and gold;

Where, it may be, the flower of dawn is cold:

Ah, but the gold nights, and the scented ways!

"Eyelids of women, little curls of hair,
A little nose curved softly, like a shell,
A red mouth like a wound, a mocking veil:

Phantoms, before the dawn, how phantom-fair!

"And every woman with beseeching eyes,
Or with enticing eyes, or amorous,
Offers herself, a rose, and craves of us
A rose's place among our memories."

Arthur Symons's *Colour Studies in Paris* is a collection of random articles of a Paris no longer in existence. The boulevards and bystreets, the Boul' Miché and its cafés—in a word, the Paris

of romance, is preserved for us only in such books as Mr. Symons's latest; in George Moore's *Impressions and Opinions*, *Memoirs of My Dead Life and Hail and Farewell*, and James Huneker's two or three volumes of miscellaneous essays.

Colour Studies in Paris includes a number of acute analyses of poets and other writers, and not a little reminiscence of distinct interest, but it is rather in his essays on *The Gingerbread Fair at Vincennes and Montmartre* and *the Latin Quarter* that the chief charm of the book resides. George Moore's criticisms are more acute, though not always so sanely balanced, and Moore is better able to impart a certain intimacy to his descriptions of Paris, but Symons—perhaps because of the limitations of his Anglo-Saxon temperament—has succeeded in giving us a general picture of Paris such as Moore was unable to approximate. *The Gingerbread Fair at Vincennes* evokes a Paris of the lower middle classes, a Paris hidden to the tourist, a Paris that makes one who knows it homesick:

"The tram rolls heavily through the

sunshine, on the way to Vincennes. The sun beats on one's head like the glow of a furnace; we are in the second week of May, and the hour is between one and two in the afternoon. From the Place Voltaire, all along the dingy boulevard, there are signs of the fair; first, little stalls with the refuse of ironmonger and pastry cook, then little booths, then a few roundabouts, the wooden horses standing motionless. At the Place de la Nation we have reached the fair itself. Already the roundabouts swarm in gorgeous inactivity: shooting galleries with lofty names—*Tir Métropolitain*, *Tir de Latèce*—lead to the establishment of the *cochonneterie*, the gingerbread pigs, which have given its name to the *Foire au pain d'épice*."

One follows the wanderer from booth to booth, forgetting for the time being that the old Paris is dead, and returns late at night, finally aware that one is weary with walking the streets. "The sky darkens, a little wind is rising; the night, after this day of heat, will be stormy." Symons loves his Paris, and it is, we feel sure, with voluptuous delight that he writes the names of streets and places through which the Batignolles-Clichy-Odéon bus must pass.

"It is an April evening; 9 o'clock has just struck. I am tired of turning over the books under the arcades of the Odéon, and I mount the omnibus. The heavy wheels rattle over the rough stones, down the broad, ugly Rue de Tournon. We curve through the narrow, winding streets, which begin to grow Catholic, blossoming out into windowfuls of wax candles, as we near Saint-Sulpice, our first stopping place. After we have left the broad, always somewhat prim and quiet open space, dominated by the formidable bulk of the curious, composite church, it is by more or less featureless ways that we reach the Boulevard Saint-Germain, coming out suddenly under the trees, so beautiful, I always think, in that odd, acute glitter which gaslight gives them." And so on up to Montmartre.

You will naturally read on, scanning with interest *Paris and Ideas*; you will be amused to read about Robert de Montesquiou-Fézensac—unless you happen to know his work already; you will be struck by the author's clever characterization of Yvette Guilbert, and his estimates of Victor Hugo; charmed, perhaps, with the papers on *Dancers and Dancing*; but if you know and love Paris, if you have lived there and steered your course well outside the American zone, you will revert to the two opening essays, in which are so well preserved the noises, the odors, the ugliness, the beauty—the indescribable composite called Paris.

COLOUR STUDIES IN PARIS. By ARTHUR SYMONS. E. P. Dutton & Co. \$3.

"The Virgin Islands"

THE VIRGIN ISLANDS, our new possessions, and the British Islands, by Theodor De Booy and J. T. Faris, gives in concise form the history of the lately Danish West Indies from the time of their discovery by Columbus down to the date of their purchase by the United States, showing prevailing conditions, agricultural and commercial possibilities, and presenting information of value to the tourist.

The authors have succeeded admirably in weaving into the story of these islands something of the fascination of a historical romance. Many are the legends of buried treasure in the cays which were once the haunts of the freebooters of the Spanish Main. These islands were storm centres of the slave trade and witnessed black days of negro uprisings and massacres; they were also the scene of bitter warfare among French, Spanish, Dutch and English colonists. For those who would go beyond recorded history the authors treat of Indian mounds and petroglyphs—stone pictures carved in the rocks by the Indians—and mortuary vessels and other aboriginal pottery.

Respecting present conditions much more land, we are assured, could be put under profitable cultivation in sugar, Sea Island cotton and the bay tree, from the leaves of which essential oils are distilled for the manufacture of bay rum. Modern American methods would yield larger and more profitable crops and cattle raising could be profitably extended.

Three hundred dollars an acre may appear a large sum to pay for land the greater part of which is unproductive, yet that is approximately the price the United States paid for our new posses-

sions. But from a geographical standpoint alone the islands are of great value, for not only are they outposts for the Panama Canal but the island of St. Thomas, "the gateway of the Caribbean," is the shortest and best route from England to any Central American port and the most convenient port of call for a liner from the United States to Brazil. "Nature," we are told, "has given this halfway house of the sea a prestige that even the commercial supremacy of the Barbados has not overshadowed."

With the aid of the ninety-seven photographic illustrations and the five maps one may conduct an instructive expedition all in a quiet evening spent in an armchair. The book is exceptionally well indexed, and the bibliographical feature should prove of value to the student.

THE VIRGIN ISLANDS, OUR NEW POSSESSIONS, AND THE BRITISH ISLANDS. By THEODOR DE BOOY AND JOHN T. FARIS. J. B. Lippincott Company. \$3.

Our First Year

in

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By

Francis Vinton Greene

Major-General, U. S. V.

Nobody could be better fitted to write on this period, so vital and interesting to all of us, than General Greene, whose keen observation and ripe experience add so much to his natural knowledge of the subject. The chapter headings will give the reader an intelligent idea of the contents: I. The Prospects of Peace; II. Our Contribution in Man Power; III. Transportation; IV. Censorship; V. Tactics; VI. The Prospects of Victory.

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